

Nations and the broad international community.

I know that my government must go beyond these strong beginnings, must do much more than we have done so far, and we must do it quickly. Our people's courage and patience are formidable, but their expectations are high. And their needs are urgent.

This does not mean that we want big government. We cannot afford it, and we believe that government should not attempt to do what civil society and business can do better. The people of Liberia know that government cannot save the country. Only their own strength, their determination, their creativity, resilience and their faith can do that.

But they have the right to expect the essentials that only a government can provide. They have the right to a government that is honest and that respects the sanctity of human life. They need and they deserve an economic environment in which their efforts can succeed. They need infrastructure, and they need security. Above all, they need peace.

That is the task of my administration. To meet that challenge, to do what is right, I ask for the continuing support of this Congress and the American people.

Honorable ladies and gentlemen, my appeal comes with the recognition of all that you have already done. In addition to the financial assistance to disarm our fighters and feed and house our displaced, the artful diplomacy of the United States was central to ending our long conflict. We thank you with all our hearts.

As small and impoverished as we are, we cherish the friendship we have had with you. During the Second World War, we stood together, even if only symbolically, to fight Nazi expansionism and tyranny. At the request of President Roosevelt, we planted rubber trees after the Japanese seized the Indonesian supply. When U.S. law prohibited sending ships to a Europe at war, we agreed to establish a shipping registry to help transport American goods. During the Cold War, we hosted a submarine tracking center, an intelligence listening post, and one of the largest Voice of America transmitters in the world.

Again, we ask that we continue working together, but we do not ask for patronage. We do not want to continue in dependency. The benefits of your assistance must be mutual.

Honorable Members of Congress, much is at stake for all of us. Liberia at war brought misery and crimes against humanity to its neighbors, a toll that is beyond calculation. A peaceful, prosperous Liberia can contribute to democracy, stability, and development in West Africa and beyond.

Nine times—nine times—in the past 15 years, the United States has been forced to evacuate official Americans and their dependents from our country, at enormous cost to your taxpayers.

Monrovia, I am told, is the most evacuated U.S. embassy in the world. I am determined that you will not need to rescue your people from our shores for a 10th time. You contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to a U.N. peace-keeping force in Liberia. A fraction of this will be required to support a peaceful and stable Liberia.

Honorable Members of this great Congress, think with me about this. What is the return on an investment that trains young combatants for life, rather than death? What is the yield when our young men can exchange their guns for jobs? What is the savings in food aid when our people can feed themselves again? What is the profit from educating our girls to be scientists and doctors? What is the dividend when our dependence ends, and we become true partners rather than supplicants?

Honorable Members, we know that there is no quick fix for the reconstruction of our country; but Liberians, young and old, share their government's commitment to work, to be honest, to unite, to reconcile, and to rebuild. A nation so well endowed, so blessed by God with natural resources should not be poor. Starting from a small base, as we do, we have rubber and timber and diamonds and gold and iron ore. Our fields are fertile. Our water supply is plentiful. Our sunshine is warm and welcoming.

With your prayers and with your help, we will demonstrate that democracy can work, even under the most challenging conditions. We will honor the suffering of our people, and Liberia will become a brilliant beacon, an example to Africa and to the world of what the love of liberty can achieve. We will strive to be America's success story in Africa, demonstrating the potential in the transformation from war to peace; demonstrating the will to join in the global fight against terrorism; demonstrating that democracy can prevail, demonstrating that prosperity can be achieved.

The people of Liberia have already rolled up their sleeves, despite overwhelming obstacles, confident that their work will be rewarded, confident in the hope and promise of the future.

The women of Liberia and the women of Africa, some in the marketplaces and some in the high levels of government, have already shared their trust and their confidence in my ability to succeed and ensure that the doors of competitive politics and professionalism will be opened even wider for them.

Honorable Members, I will succeed. I will not betray their trust. I will make them proud. I will make you proud in the difference which one woman with abiding faith in God can make.

God bless you.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

At 2 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m., Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, accompanied by the committee of es-

cort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet;

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 2 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1544

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 3 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1644

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOUSTANY) at 4 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST PROVISIONS IN H.R. 4939, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all